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FLOOR DEBATE

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not believe that even the \$2,500 will make that much difference. If this amendment is adopted I will leave this teacher loan program alone. Now I don't believe my saying that is going to cause people to adopt this amendment, but it might cause some people to vote to adopt this amendment. I just cannot develop a feeling of comfort with Senator Thompson's program. Since she's in the culture corner I'm proud of what she did by getting the bill through. Had circumstances combined last session to allow funding for the program, we would not be doing what we're doing today. There's many a slip between the cup and the lip. In this set of circumstances, the funding was cut out by the Governor last session. That leaves us with a bill that authorizes a program, but there has been no money appropriated to fund it. That is the reality that we're facing. Now, that reality has more than one facet, more than one face or side. Another facet is the fact that money is scarce this session, more so now than it was at the beginning. So this amendment, if you knocked off \$500 from every one of these loans, then you'd save an amount which I haven't calculated yet. But if you look at the way the amendment is drafted and you want to do some subtracting and other calculating, you can determine the total amount that would be likely realized as a result of my amendment. Any place you can cut money you ought to be cutting it. This is not cutting money. If you refuse to fund this program you are not cutting anything. You are leaving status quo as status quo. You're not taking anything from a program. You're not depriving anybody of something they developed an expectation they would receive. So why don't we take this step and see what happens? This is a tremendous backpedaling on my part. There would still be enough money to grant loans up to \$2,000. I would like to ask Senator Thompson a question, if I may.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Thompson, will you yield to a question?

SENATOR THOMPSON: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Thompson, is this loan program based on need?